

Catawba County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session, Monday, December 1, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

**Appointments**

Catawba Valley Medical Center Board of Trustee	265	12/01/08
Catawba County Youth Council	265	12/01/08
Organizational Meeting Appointments	265	12/01/08
Tax Administrator/Tax Assessor	267	12/01/08

**Awards**

2008 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award	265	12/10/08
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**Budget**

2008 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award	265	12/01/08
Jennifer Mace, New Budget Director	266	12/01/08

**Closed Session**

Attorney/Client Privilege	267	12/01/08
Personnel Issues	267	12/01/08

**Economic Development Corporation**

Items for State Legislative Agenda	266	12/01/08
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**Human Resources**

Karen Haines, New Director	266	12/01/08
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**Oaths of Office**

Commissioner Beatty	265	12/01/08
Commissioner Hunsucker	265	12/01/08
Register of Deeds Spencer	265	12/01/08

**Organizational Meeting**

Appointments	265	12/01/08
Chair/Vice-Chair	265	12/01/08

**Presentation**

2008 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award	265	12/10/08
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**Social Services**

Reinventing Positions	266	12/01/08
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**Tax**

Refund Requests	266	12/10/08
Tax Administrator/Assessor	266	12/10/08

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina. This meeting followed the Board's annual breakfast with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Staff.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Lynn Lail and Commissioners Dan Hunsucker and Barbara G. Beatty.

Commissioner Glenn Barger was absent.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris, County Attorney Debra Bechtel and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

Deputy County Attorney Anne Marie Pease was absent.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.
2. Commissioner Dan Hunsucker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Chair Barnes offered the invocation.
4. Vice-Chair Lynn Lail made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of Monday, November 17, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Oaths of Office:  
The Board, audience and family and friends observed as re-elected County Commissioners Barbara G. Beatty and Dan A. Hunsucker and re-elected Register of Deeds Donna Hicks Spencer took the Oaths of Office for new four-year terms in their respective offices. Superior Court Judge Nathan Poovey administered the oaths for all three officials
6. Chair Barnes then announced it was the organizational meeting of the Board of Commissioners and she asked County Manager J. Thomas Lundy to conduct the election of the chair and vice-chair. Mr. Lundy opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Vice-Chair Lail made a motion to appoint Katherine W. Barnes as Chair. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Barnes then asked for nominations for Vice-Chair and Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to appoint Lynn M. Lail as Vice-Chair. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Barnes then made a motion to make the following organizational appointments for the upcoming year:
  - a. County Attorney – Debra Bechtel
  - b. Finance and Personnel Subcommittee – Commissioners Beatty and Barger
  - c. Policy and Public Works Subcommittee – Commissioners Lail and Hunsucker
  - d. WPCOG Policy Board Delegate – Chair Barnes
  - e. WPCOG Policy Board Alternate – Vice-Chair Lail
  - f. Hospital Board of Trustees – Commissioner Beatty
  - g. Mental Health Partners Board – Chair Barnes
  - h. Public Health Board – Commissioner Hunsucker
  - i. Social Services Board and Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board – Commissioner Barger
  - j. Catawba County Criminal Partnership Advisory Board – Vice-Chair Lail
  - k. Catawba County Partnership for Children Board – Vice-Chair Lail
  - l. Child Advocacy Center Board – Commissioner Hunsucker
  - m. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Chair BarnesThe motion to make these appointments carried unanimously.
7. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed everyone present and specifically the family and friends present for the oaths of office for the County's newly re-elected officials.
8. Comments for Items not on the Agenda. None.
9. Presentation:  
Chair Barnes presented the County's Budget staff (Judy Ikerd, Budget Manager; Jennifer Mace, Budget Analyst II and Katrina Hawkins, Budget Analyst I) with a 2008 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. The award is given to local governments that prepare and publish a budget document judged to be both informative and understandable. Catawba County has won the award for 20 consecutive years. Chair Barnes noted this was the last time Judy Ikerd would be receiving the award due to her upcoming retirement at the end of the year and praised her for her work and how her humor was a great addition to the budget process.
10. Appointments.

Commissioner Beatty recommended the reappointment of Rita Busbee for a second term and Dr. T. Reginald Williams for a first term, to succeed Dr. Billy Price who was not eligible for appointment, to the Catawba Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees. These terms will expire December 31, 2012. Chair Katherine Barnes recommended the appointment of Jason Setzer (Bunker Hill High School), Yousseff Amrani (St. Stephens High School), Jacob Richard (Maiden High School), Kristy Decker (Maiden High School), Amanda Leigh Young (Bandys High School), Elly Houser (Bandys High School), Elizabeth Ball (Bandys High School), Laura Thomas (Home Schooled), Carly Sanders (Challenger High), Nat Glynn (Newton Health & Sciences), Won-Lak Choi (Newton Health & Sciences), Nicky Lo (Hmong Association – Maiden High School) and Jessica Bailes (Newton-Conover High School) to the Catawba County Youth Council for first terms expiring January 8, 2010. Chair Barnes also recommended the reappointment of the following students to the Council: Ashley Bandy (Newton-Conover High School), Julian Cernuda (Newton-Conover High School), Erin Frye (Bunker Hill High School), Sarah Robinson (Bunker Hill High School), Gavin Gabriel (NAACP), Regan Hale (Hickory High School), Ethan Hefner (4-H), Kimberly Hulley (St. Stephens High School), Beau Rowe (St. Stephens High School), Joanna Johnson (Girl Scouts), Rebekah Love (Newton-Conover High School), Sara Mofford (Fred T. Foard High School), Lindsey Weaver (Fred T. Foard High School), Lauren Riley (Maiden High School), Savannah Sherrill (Bandys High School) and Jake Meade (Hickory High School). These terms also expire on January 8, 2010. These recommendations came in the form of a motion and were unanimously approved.

11. Departmental Reports:

a. Economic Development Corporation

Scott Millar, President of the Economic Development Corporation presented the Board with an informational report on two economic development issues that staff recommend be included in the Board's State Legislative Agenda. The first would ask the North Carolina General Assembly to allow all tier 1 and 2 counties to be eligible for Industrial Development Fund (IDF) infrastructure funding, and to increase funding per job to \$15,000 for tier 1 counties and \$10,000 per job for tier 2 counties. Catawba County is currently classified as a tier 2 county. The State's IDF funding helps challenged communities refurbish and redevelop outdated and obsolete industrial facilities. These funds are currently given only to the lower 25 of the 40 economically distressed Tier 2 counties. Since available funds have increased since the original legislation was enacted, Catawba County staff believes this restriction should be reconsidered and that funds should be available to communities such as Catawba County that have experienced significant manufacturing layoffs and closings, and have a large number of available obsolete facilities.

The second issue recommended for the Board's upcoming State Legislative Agenda is that the General Assembly support the recruitment of data centers across the State by revising and updating the definition of an "eligible data center" so that these data centers would be exempt from sales taxes on electricity.

This item was for informational purposes and no action was required.

b. Tax

Ona Scruggs, Tax Collector, requested the Board approve two tax refund requests totaling \$1420.81. Records have been checked and these refunds verified, so the Tax Collector recommends approval. Under North Carolina General Statute 105-381, a taxpayer who has paid his or her taxes may request a refund in writing for an amount paid through error. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve these tax refund requests. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Other Items of Business:

Section II F of the 2005-2006 Budget Ordinance states: "Reinventing Departments may create or abolish positions which impact the outcomes approved by the Board of Commissioners and within available revenues upon summary approval of the Board of Commissioners. Approval will come at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting and will be attached and approved as part of the minutes."

Under this provision of the Budget Ordinance, the following personnel changes have been made to Social Services' budget to accommodate the Duke Endowment Post Foster Care Project:

Foster Care Social Worker III (2)

The addition of two positions will allow for significant reduction in caseload and create capacity for staffing of implementation teams and the provision of new post-care services that will be implemented under The Duke Endowment Project.

Post Adoption Social Work Supervisor III

This position will provide supervision for the 3-staff Post-Adoptions unit and create capacity for providing additional post-care services for adoptive families implemented under The Duke Endowment Project.

Family NET Child Therapist

This position will increase capacity to provide therapeutic services to children leaving care and increase capacity for staffing of implementation teams and ensure the provision of new clinical post-care services implemented under The Duke Endowment Project.

Lead Reunification Social Worker III

This position will provide a needed focus on use of best-practice approaches for working with reunified families, including the mentoring of best practices within foster care and adoptions units.

13. Attorneys' Report. None

14. Manager's Report.

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy announced the hiring of the following Department Heads to succeed those who have or are retiring:

Karen Haines, Social Services Staff Attorney for Adult Services, Child Support and Fraud, will succeed Debbie Bradley as Human Resources Director, effective December 29. Haines has worked as a Police Officer and Deputy Sheriff, in the District Attorney's office serving Catawba, Burke and Caldwell Counties, and, for the last 4 and 1/2 years, in Social Services. She has a Masters of Business Administration as well as a law degree, a unique combination. Lundy indicated her education, work in the public sector and her commitment to Catawba County will serve her well in her new role.

Jennifer Mace, Budget Analyst II with the Budget Office, will succeed Judy Ikerd as Budget Manager, effective January 1, 2009. Jennifer has been with Catawba County since November 1995 and has worked in the County's Budget Office for the last 3 years. She worked in the Sheriff's Office as Business Manager before coming to the County's Budget Office. Mace has a Masters of Public Administration and held positions in State government before coming to Catawba County. She has participated in Catawba County's Supervisory Training, Succession Planning and Mentoring programs.

Mark Logan, Revaluation Coordinator with the Tax Office, will succeed Randy Moose as Tax Administrator, effective January 1. Logan was born and reared in Hickory and has been with Catawba County Government for 20 years. He began his career as a Real Estate Appraiser and was promoted to Senior Real Estate Appraiser and then to his current position of Revaluation Coordinator. Logan has participated in a variety of organization-sponsored learning opportunities, such as Supervisory Training, Succession Planning and Mentoring, and the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Catawba.

County Manager Lundy then made the recommendation for the Board to appoint Mark Logan as tax assessor for an unexpired term effective January 1, 2009 and expiring June 30, 2009. Vice-Chair Lail made a motion to approve this appointment and the motion carried unanimously.

Then Mr. Lundy asked the Board to consider moving into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee. No action was anticipated upon return to open session.

15. Adjournment: The Board returned to open session and no action was taken. Vice-Chair Lail made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Katherine W. Barnes, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

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Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk